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Message Text

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45
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 CPR-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15

USIA-06 PRS-01 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /053 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL:VE
APPROVED BY EUR/WE:REBARBOUR
OSD/ISA - MR. LLOYD
CNO- CAPT. FLATIGER
S/CPR - AMBASSADOR ROCKWELL
---------- 059171
R 050132Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028061

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, FR, US

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING TO
SPONSOR COMTE DE GRASSE

REF: DAO 32533 DECEMBER 12

1. RECOMMENDATION IN REFTEL IS APPROVED. FOLLOWING
LANGUAGE MAY BE DRAWN UPON IN PREPARING INVITATION FROM
AMBASSADOR TO VGE: USN AS PART OF ITS BICENTENNIAL OBSER-
VANCE PLANS TO GIVE NAME COMTE DE GRASSE TO DESTROYER NOW
UNDER CONSTRUCTION. IT IS FITTING THAT MEMORY OF ADMIRAL
DE GRASSE, WHOSE VICTORY IN BATTLE OFF VIRGINIA CAPES
WAS SO IMPORTANT AT YORKTOWN, SHOULD BE SO HONORED.
IMPORTANT ASPECT OF NAMING OF VESSEL IS SELECTION OF A
SPONSOR. USN PRACTICE IS TO INVITE, AS SPONSOR OF NEW SHIP,
A DISTINGUISHED LADY WHO BY HER PRESENCE DIRECTS ATTENTION
TO SIGNIFICANCE OF NAME. IN KEEPING WITH THIS TRADITION
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY PROPOSES MADAME GISCARD D'ESTAING BE
INVITED TO SPONSOR COMTE DE GRASSE. I WISH ON BEHALF OF
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SECRETARY MIDDENDORF AND USG TO EXTEND INVITATION TO MADAME

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GISCARD D'ESTAING TO SPONSOR COMPTE DE GRASSE (DD-974) AND CHRISTEN SHIP DURING CEREMONIES TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 22 AT THE SHIPYARD AT PASCAGOULA, MISSISSIPPI. IF THIS DATE IS INCONVENIENT, THE LAUNCHING COULD BE HELD ON MAY 21. THE CHRISTENING CEREMONY IS NORMALLY HELD AT 1100, FOLLOWED BY A RECEPTION AND LUNCH IN HONOR OF THE SPONSOR, WHICH CONCLUDES ABOUT 1430.

2. REQUEST INVITATION BE DELIVERED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.
KISSINGER

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NNN

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To: PARIS
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